



Glitch in software cause of faulty fire alarm

By **AARON ALDRIDGE**
Staff Writer

UNITY — A faulty fire alarm at the Sullivan County Nursing home was attributed to a glitch in the software that operates the control module for the alarm, according to facilities and operations director Greg Chanis.

"You prepare for events with the assumption that things don't always go right," Sullivan County Manager Ed Gil de Rubio said.

According to Chanis, a fire alarm was activated by a staff member on March 31 at 12:20 a.m. after a burning smell was noticed. The audible alarms and strobe lights activated in the MacConnell wing, but in the Stearns and Sanders wings the alarm failed to activate.

"The issue was with a software problem in the fire alarm program," Chanis said. "At no time was anyone in danger."

The alarm system is designed to activate the audible and visual alarms throughout the facility and

is monitored by HSM Security.

A report filed with Sullivan County Commissioners on Wednesday stated that after the alarm was activated it tripped the master box connected directly to the Claremont Fire Department. Within minutes a fire truck arrived at the nursing home.

The charge nurse on duty also notified the director of facilities, director of nursing and the nursing home administrator.

"The staff followed procedure," Chanis said.

The failure of the alarms to activate was addressed within 30 minutes of the initial alarm activation. A fire watch was initiated until the problem was resolved late in the afternoon when the computer program was reloaded.

Several tests of the alarm system were conducted, which verified the system was working correctly.

According to Chanis, fire alarm drills are conducted monthly at the facility to ensure the safety of the residents.